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TRANSISTOR  
CLEANSHOOT  
PROB. AUTOMATA  
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GEARSHOT

S.O.S.

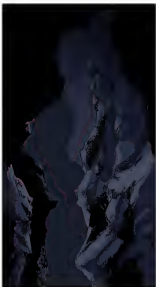
S.O.S.

THE MOTION PICTURE COMPANY  
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# GaSi

**RYU KI-WOON MOON JUNG-HOO**  
**MOON MYEONG-JU HAN BYEONG-HUN**

**CHAPTER 42**  
**DOH GYEOM, THE IRON LION (7)**





THE  
P-PUNGJIN  
SECT WAS...  
ATTACKED?

SHH--!  
LOWER  
YOUR  
VOICE.



THEY'VE PROBABLY  
NOTICED BY NOW THAT  
YOU'VE DISAPPEARED.

WE  
CAN'T AFFORD  
TO RELAX UNTIL  
WE'RE FAR AWAY  
FROM HERE.

...

THEN... WHAT  
HAPPENED TO  
MY FATHER  
AND YEON...?

THEY'RE  
BOTH SAFE, SO  
REST EASY.

AFTER NARROWLY  
ESCAPING PURSUIT, WE TOOK  
SHELTER IN A HIDEOUT ON  
SOPO MOUNTAIN.

I DOUBT  
OUR ENEMIES' REACH  
EXTENDS THAT FAR.



BUT I WONDER IF  
MY ELDER BROTHER  
IS AWARE OF THE  
SITUATION...



...NO, PERHAPS IT'S A  
BLESSING IN DISGUISE THAT  
HE'S IN 'THE STATE' HE'S IN  
AT A TIME LIKE THIS...



AFTERWARDS, I  
WENT TO OUR MEETING  
PLACE, BUT YOU WERE  
NOWHERE TO BE SEEN.

IT SURPRISED  
YOU'D HEADED  
TO YELLOW ROCK  
VILLAGE, BUT I NEVER  
THOUGHT YOU'D FIND  
YOUR WAY THERE  
SO QUICKLY...



JUST WHO  
THE HELL WAS  
IT THAT...





IT WAS DARK, AND  
THEY WERE WEARING  
MASKS, SO IT WAS  
DIFFICULT TO SEE  
WHO THEY WERE.

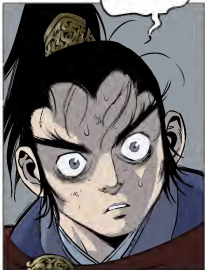


BUT THERE'S NO  
DOUBT THAT THEY  
WERE SENT BY THE  
MURIM ALLIANCE.





...WHAT?



T-THE MURIM  
ALLIANCE...?



BUT THE PUNGOIN  
SECT IS PART OF THE  
MURIM ALLIANCE.

WHY WOULD THEY  
ATTACK US?



YOUR  
FATHER...



DIDN'T WANT ME TO  
TELL YOU THIS UNTIL YOU'D  
OFFICIALLY TAKEN UP THE  
MANTLE OF FUNGJIN  
MASTER...

BUT I GUESS  
HE'D UNDERSTAND,  
CONSIDERING OUR  
CURRENT STRAITS.



...OUR FUNGJIN SECT  
WAS ADMITTED TO THE  
MURIM ALLIANCE WHEN I WAS  
FIVE AND YOUR FATHER  
WAS TEN YEARS OLD.

THAT WAS  
LESS THAN 40  
YEARS AGO!

HUH?



UP UNTIL THEN... WHILE WE  
WEREN'T CONSIDERED A CHAOTIC  
FACTION, WE WEREN'T RECOGNISED  
AS A RIGHTEOUS ONE EITHER.

A ONCE HUMBLE ARMED GUARD  
SERVICE THAT HAD AMASSED  
ENORMOUS WEALTH... BUT THAT  
EXISTED IN A GREY AREA.

THAT'S WHAT  
PEOPLE THOUGHT OF  
THE FUNGIN SECT.

HOW DID  
THAT...

...

BACK  
THEN...

*THERE'D BEEN  
A GREAT WAR IN  
THE MURIM.*



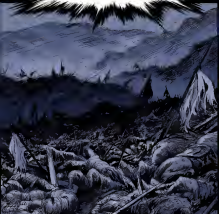
A CLASH BETWEEN  
A HEATHEN CULT IN  
THE NORTH CALLED THE  
'DEMONIC CULT' AND THE  
MURIM MASTERS OF  
THE MIDDLE KINGDOM.



AGAINST THE  
GREATEST ENEMY THEY'D  
EVER FACED, THE MURIM  
ALLIANCE OF RIGHTEOUS  
FACTIONS FORMED A GRAND  
COALITION WITH THE CHAOTIC  
FACTIONS TO CONFRONT  
THIS ENEMY.



*THE LONG AND  
FIERCE WAR ENDED WITH  
THE CULT'S DEFEAT...*



*BUT THE VICTORY ALSO  
LEFT THE ALLIANCE IN TATTERS,  
FOR EIGHT OUT OF EVERY TEN  
MEN WHO'D TAKEN PART IN  
THE STRUGGLE PERISHED.*

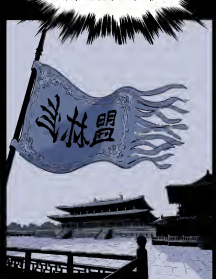




MOST OF THE SURVIVORS ALSO TURNED THEIR BACKS ON THE MURIM FOR VARIOUS REASONS, SUCH AS 'DISILLUSIONMENT WITH THE RAMPANT INFIGHTING AMONG THE MURIM' OR 'GRIEF OVER FALLEN COMRADES'.



LATER, A NUMBER OF SMALL, PERIPHERAL FACTIONS THAT HADN'T FOUGHT IN THE WAR IN ORDER TO PROTECT THEIR OWN FUTURE INTERESTS, FORMED A NEW ALLIANCE OF RIGHTEOUS FACTIONS, WHICH BECAME THE MURIM ALLIANCE THAT WE KNOW TODAY.



THE NEW MURIM ALLIANCE, IN THEIR BID TO EXPAND RAPIDLY, ADMITTED EN MASSE EVEN NEUTRAL FACTIONS THAT WERE NEITHER RIGHTEOUS NOR CHAOTIC...

AND THAT IS HOW THE PLUNGJIN SECT, DESPITE ITS HISTORY, ENDED UP JOINING THE MURIM ALLIANCE.



THE MURIM SEEMED TO REGAIN STABILITY UNDER THIS NEW ORDER...

BUT PEACE DIDN'T EVEN LAST FOR TWENTY YEARS.





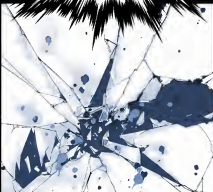
HEAVENLY  
DESTROYER, THE  
SUPREME OVERLORD.



VENTURING FORTH  
FROM THEIR BASE IN THE  
SOUTH, THE SUPREME OVERLORD  
AND HIS FOLLOWERS TERRORISED  
THE MURIM AND CONQUERED  
MOST OF THE LAND IN THREE  
SHORT YEARS.



HAD THEY NOT  
SELF-DESTRUCTED DUE  
TO INTERNAL TURMOIL, THE  
MURIM WOULD'VE LONG SINCE  
BEEN UNITED UNDER THE  
HEAVENLY DESTRUCTION  
SECT'S FLAG.



THAT WAS  
WHEN THE PROBLEM  
BEGAN.



OVER HALF OF THE NEUTRAL FACTIONS THAT HAD JOINED THE MURIM ALLIANCE WENT TO THE HEAVENLY DESTROYER OF THEIR OWN ACCORD AND SWORE LOYALTY TO HIM, INSTEAD OF FIGHTING AGAINST HIM.



CONSEQUENTLY, WHEN THE HEAVENLY DESTRUCTION SECT FELL TO RUIN, THEY SHARED THE SAME FATE AS THE SECT'S REMNANTS...



SINCE THEN, THE MURIM ALLIANCE'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS THEIR MEMBER FACTIONS STARTED TO CHANGE NOTICEABLY.

IN THE BEGINNING, IT  
WAS NOTHING MORE THAN  
PETTY DISCRIMINATION  
HERE AND THERE...



BUT AS TIME  
PASSED, THEY OPENLY  
NEGLECTED NEUTRAL  
FACTIONS MORE  
AND MORE.

ANY FACTION THAT  
EXPRESSED DISCONTENT AT  
THIS TREATMENT WAS SANCTIONED  
IMMEDIATELY, AND SO THINGS  
CONTINUED, WITH US SUFFERING  
IN SILENCE, NOT DARING TO  
VOICE OUR GRIEVANCES.



THERE WERE EVEN  
RUMOURS THAT THE GOLDEN KING  
SECT, A FACTION ANNIHILATED FOR  
PLOTTING TO OVERTHROW  
THE MURIM ALLIANCE...

HAD BEEN SET UP  
AFTER THEY SIGNALLED  
THEIR INTENTION OF  
LEAVING THE ALLIANCE.

UNABLE TO  
ENDURE IT ANY LONGER,  
YOUR FATHER WENT TO  
SEE THE LEADERS OF  
THE MURIM ALLIANCE...

AND INFORMED THEM  
THAT IF THE DISCRIMINATION  
PERSISTED, THE PUNGJIN SECT  
AND THE REST OF THE NEUTRAL  
FACTIONS WOULD LEAVE  
THE MURIM ALLIANCE.





*AFTERWARDS,  
WHILE THE 'SCHISM' THAT  
EXISTED BETWEEN THE TWO  
SIDES NEVER COMPLETELY  
DISAPPEARED, OPEN  
DISCRIMINATION, AT LEAST,  
WAS ELIMINATED.*





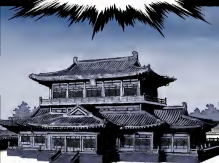
*IT WASN'T BECAUSE  
YOUR FATHER'S WORDS  
HAD MOVED THEM OR MADE  
THEM REFLECT ON THEIR  
MISTAKES, HOWEVER.*



*IN FACT, I'M PRETTY  
SURE THEY CONSIDERED  
YOUR FATHER A THORN  
IN THEIR SIDE.*



**BUT THEY COULDN'T IGNORE HIM BECAUSE THE MURIM ALLIANCE WOULD'VE BEEN DESTITUTE IF NOT FOR THE PUNGJIN SECT'S CONTINUED FUNDING.**



**IF THEY COULD'VE, THEY WOULD'VE DEARLY LOVED TO HAVE SEIZED OUR ENOMOUS WEALTH THE SAME WAY THEY'D PLOTTED THE GOLDEN KING SECT'S DEMISE.**



BUT OUR SECT'S  
INFLUENCE OVER OTHER  
NEUTRAL FACTIONS...



AND THE MIGHTY PROWESS  
OF YOUR FATHER, THE 'IRON LION',  
WHOM THE REMNANTS OF THE HEAVENLY  
DESTRUCTION SECT TREMBLED IN FEAR  
OF, NO DOUBT PETERED THEM FROM  
PUTTING THEIR PLAN INTO ACTION.

AND THAT'S HOW IT  
CONTINUED TILL THIS DAY, WITH  
BOTH THE MURIM ALLIANCE AND NEUTRAL  
FACTIONS HARBOURING BITTERNESS  
TOWARDS EACH OTHER.





*YOUR FATHER HAS  
BEEN UNCONSCIOUS FOR A  
YEAR, SUFFERING FROM AN  
UNKNOWN ILLNESS...*

*AND I, WHO'S ALWAYS  
REMAINED IN HIS SHADOW,  
AM NOT SOMEONE WHO  
CAN INTIMIDATE THEM.*

*MOREOVER, YOUR  
MARTIAL ARTS AREN'T  
YET AT A LEVEL WHERE YOU  
CAN RIGHTLY CLAIM THE  
TITLE OF 'IRON LION'...*



SO, THEY PROBABLY  
HAD NO CHOICE BUT  
TO ACT, BEFORE YOU  
GREW ANY STRONGER.



\*\*\*



I... I DON'T  
KNOW HOW TO TAKE  
ALL THIS. IT'S SO  
SUDDEN...

I KNOW YOU MUST BE  
CONFUSED RIGHT NOW,  
BUT YOU'LL UNDERSTAND  
SOON ENOUGH. SO...



HMMP!

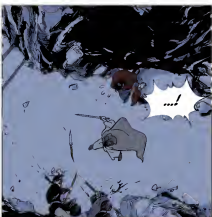
F-FOUND  
THEM!



**THEY'RE  
HERE--!**



UCK!



WHERE DID  
THAT SOUND  
JUST COME  
FROM?

OVER  
THERE.

BWEEEP

DAHH...





**CAN YOU  
RUN?**

U-UHM...



...



IT SEEMS... THAT  
BOTH OF US GETTING  
OUT OF HERE MIGHT  
BE A TALL ORDER.



BE THAT AS IT MAY,  
KEEP WHAT I'VE TOLD  
YOU IN MIND, GYEOM.

SINCE WE'VE COME  
TO THIS, IT'S OBVIOUS  
WHAT THEY'RE AFTER.

SO YOU MUST  
PROTECT 'IT' AT  
ALL COSTS.

THE 'SEAL' HANDED  
DOWN ONLY TO THE  
FAMILY'S HEIRS THROUGH  
THE GENERATIONS...

DID YOUR FATHER  
EVER TELL YOU WHERE  
THE CURIO THAT OPENS  
THE PUNGJIN SECT'S  
TREASURE VAULT IS  
HIDDEN...?





AH...



*I KNEW IT...*

Y-YES... HE'S  
TOLD ME ABOUT  
IT... BUT...



WHAT A  
RELIEF.



THAT THING IS ABSOLUTELY  
ESSENTIAL FOR YOUR AND THE  
PUNGJIN SECT'S FUTURE.

DON'T EVER TELL ANYONE  
ABOUT IT, AND KEEP THE KNOWLEDGE  
TO YOURSELF YOU GOT ME?



...HUH?



U-UNCLE.

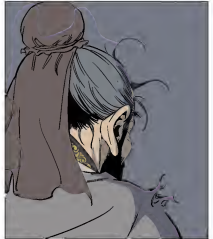






SINCE IT'S UNCERTAIN WHETHER I  
CAN LEAVE THIS PLACE SAFELY...

I THINK YOU SHOULD  
KNOW ABOUT IT TOO,  
JUST IN CASE.



ABOUT THE  
PLACE WHERE... THE  
'SEAL' IS KEPT.











AFTER ALL THAT'S HAPPENED,  
I STILL HESITATE TO LAY  
HANDS ON MY OWN KIN...

